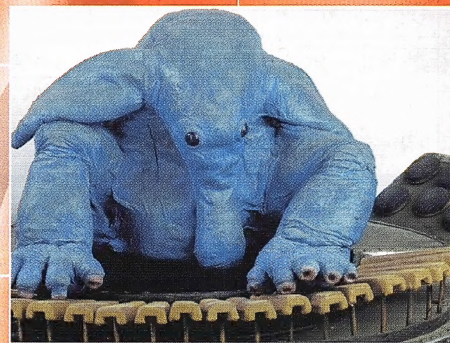


THE OFFICIAL STAR WARS FACT FILE 46

INSIDE:
COUNT DOOKU



JABBA'S ENTERTAINERS
MAX REBO BAND



DETAILED FOLD-OUT PLANS
LAMBDA-CLASS
IMPERIAL SHUTTLE

DeAGOSTINI

LUCAS
BOOKS



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BLASTING ITS WAY INTO ISSUE 47...

SEARCH FOR AMIDALA'S ASSASSIN

The Jedi investigation into the attempts on Amidala's life.

LUMINARA UNDULI

The wise and powerful Jedi Knight.

SUPREME CHANCELLOR PALPATINE

Palpatine's early days as leader of the Galactic Senate.

R2-D2

The astromech droid's adventures on Geonosis.



GEONOSIS - PRISON CELL

The ingenious cell with the strength to hold a Jedi as powerful as Obi-Wan Kenobi.

DROID MANUFACTURERS

The companies behind the production of the galaxy's home and leisure droids.

GUNGAN ENERGY SHIELD

How the Gungans used their knowledge of plasma to engineer powerful battle shields.

EXECUTOR

The first of the Super Star Destroyers - Imperial titans of the Galactic Civil War.

AREN'T YOU A LITTLE SHORT FOR A STORMTROOPER?*

O ABY LEIS



A DARING RAID

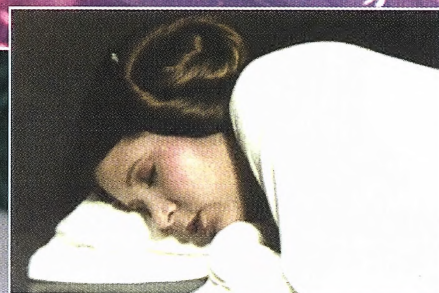
GETTING INTO DETENTION BLOCK AA-23 HAD BEEN SIMPLE ENOUGH. WITH THE IMPERIALS DISTRACTED, IT WAS TIME FOR THE NEXT MOVE

HAVING infiltrated one of the Death Star's many prison blocks, Han and Luke, disguised as stormtroopers, acted suitably surprised and panicked when their 'prisoner', the Wookiee Chewbacca, seemingly broke free. Grabbing a blaster rifle, Chewie began firing at everything in sight.

The Imperials on duty were caught by surprise. Initially, they went for the raging Wookiee, but it quickly became clear that the two stormtroopers accompanying the 'prisoner' were not all they appeared, as their seemingly wild shots were accurately taking out security cameras and lasers. By then it was too late – the three would-be rescuers had cleared the area of Imperials and security devices. Left in a room filled with smoke and the blaring of alarms, Han took over. Luke, still stunned after his first firefight, was spurred back into action when Solo came up with the location of the Princess's cell. Luke moved off into the cell-lined central corridor.

Han and Chewie did their best to secure their position. The alarm needed to be dealt with, as did a flashing light on

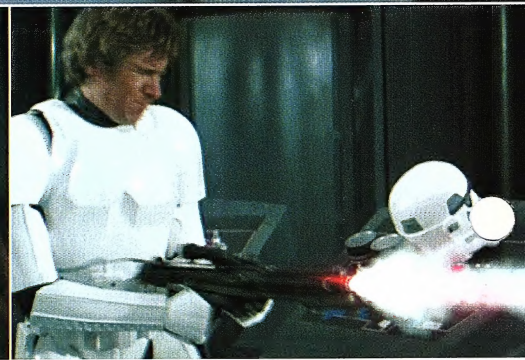
LOOK OUT! HE'S LOOSE! Once inside the Death Star's detention block, Han and Luke used their 'prisoner', Chewbacca, to overcome the Imperial guards. By the time the Imperials realized they had been tricked, it was too late.



YOU'RE WHO?:

Inside her soundproofed cell, Leia remained blissfully unaware of the commotion going on outside. But when Luke Skywalker eventually reached her, she showed little sign of surprise.

< WE'VE BEEN CUT OFF!: Emerging from Leia's cell, Luke and the Princess walked straight into a hail of fire as Han and Chewie fought to create an escape route for the group. Leia, singularly unimpressed by her rescuers' lack of planning, eventually suggested the garbage chute as the only way out.



the comm board. Taking a deep breath, Han slapped the receive button.

There had been a weapons malfunction, but everything was now fine, Han lied to the confused and suspicious Imperial on the other end of the line. He also insisted that sending a squad up was not a good idea. There was, he said, a reactor leak that needed to be locked down. The Imperial officer had,

< OH, NO!:

While the rescuers searched for an escape route, Threepio and Artoo offered only bad news. The Imperials were aware of the Rebels' presence and all exits had been closed.

by now, had enough and asked for Han's operating number. Having blasted the comm panel, Han shouted to Luke that company was on its way.

A VISION IN WHITE

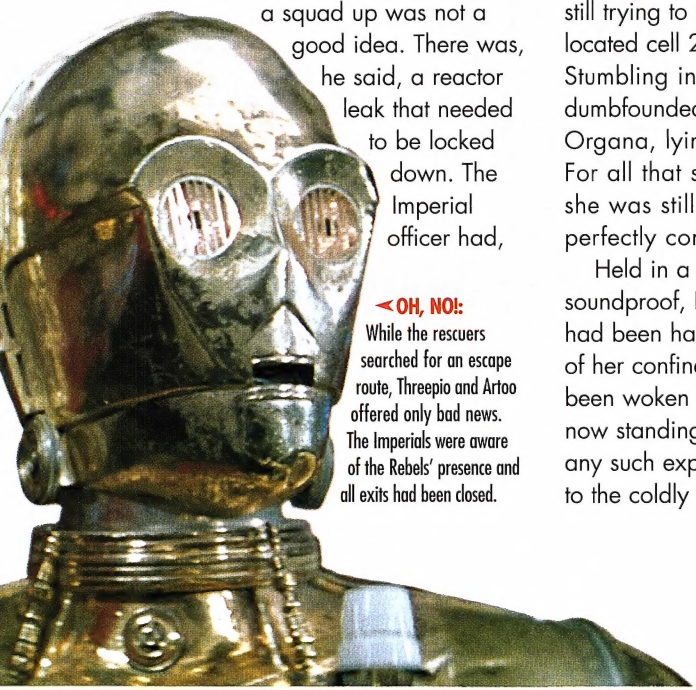
Luke, hurrying as best he could, was still trying to find the Princess. He finally located cell 2187 and keyed the door. Stumbling in, he was momentarily dumbfounded. There was Princess Leia Organa, lying on a cold metal pallet. For all that she had gone through, she was still a vision in white, and perfectly composed.

Held in a cell that was utterly soundproof, Leia had no idea of what had been happening beyond the walls of her confinement. Abruptly, she had been woken by a stormtrooper who was now standing and gawping at her, if any such expression could be attributed to the coldly functional helmets.

A CAN'T GET OUT THAT WAY: While Luke was attempting to locate and free Princess Leia, Han and Chewie had a battle of their own to deal with. Holed up in the detention block's control room, they had to fight their way past a group of stormtroopers to reunite with Luke and the Princess.

Determined not to lose her defiant attitude, Leia asked if this trooper was not a little short of stature for one of his ilk.

To Leia's surprise, the trooper peeled off his helmet to reveal the face of a young man about her own age. Luke quickly blurted out his name and the fact that he had come to rescue her. If he expected a delighted reply from the beautiful young woman, he found himself instead having to repeat what he had said, and added that Obi-Wan Kenobi and the Princess's droids were here with him. Leia pushed past her rescuer, looking for General Kenobi. More than a little confused, Luke followed Leia out of the cell and straight into a hail of blaster fire.



'THIS IS SOME RESCUE! WHEN YOU CAME IN HERE, DIDN'T YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR GETTING OUT?!!'

0 ABY LEI7



ONE WAY OUT

DETENTION BLOCK AA-23 WAS THE LOCATION
FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF FOUR INDIVIDUALS
WHO WERE DESTINED TO CHANGE THE GALAXY.
THINGS DID NOT GET OFF TO A WINNING START

TO their credit, Han and Chewie had done their best. The Imperials arrived to discover all the lift doors and other access points locked down. This, however, had been anticipated, and the control room door was soon blasted down. The first stormtrooper through was quickly nailed, his body providing another obstacle for the other troopers.

Han and Chewbacca were driven back by the advancing stormtroopers. The two rescuers took refuge in the corridors, using the cell doorways for cover. The Imperials didn't advance beyond the control room, preferring to wait until the infiltrators realized they were trapped. There was no place for them to go.

Luke and Leia joined Han and Chewie in the corridor, dodging blasts that burned through the air around them. Returning fire as much as to keep the stormtroopers' heads down as anything else, the rescuers found Princess Leia was not feeling at her most grateful. She hadn't escaped far, and her saviours didn't seem to have a clue as to what to do next.

Luke used his comlink to contact

<A> WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?:

Trapped in the corridor of the detention block, it looked as if there was nowhere to run for the three rescuers and the Princess. Frustrated at her rescuers' apparent incompetence, Princess Leia grabbed a blaster and fired at the wall, exposing a garbage chute which she and her new-found friends quickly used to retreat from the unceasing fire of the stormtroopers.



LEIA O ABY

Threepio, who confirmed that there was no way out, save past the Imperials, and that all sectors had been alerted. This was too much for the Princess, who grabbed Luke's gun and blasted a hole through one of the walls, exposing the gaping access to a garbage chute. Giving herself covering fire, Leia crossed the tiny corridor and jumped in.

ESCAPE ROUTE

Luke and Chewie followed, though the Wookiee was more than a little reluctant to discover where the smell was coming from. Han fired frantically up the corridor, creating as much smoke as he could. Then, with a whooping yell, he dived head first into the garbage chute.

Han was already in a bad mood by the time he landed in the noxious pile of garbage. He had risked his neck for a princess who seemed not only ungrateful, but thoroughly irritated by his efforts.

Han turned his blaster on the only

Y GET TO THE TOP!: The group were initially surprised when Luke was released by the dianoga, but they soon realized why. The walls of the garbage crusher were closing in and, with Threepio out of contact, there was nothing they could do to stop them.



door out of the garbage processing room, ignoring his companions' cries of protest. Ducking into the mass of Imperial refuse, Han had to admit that firing a laser in a magnetically sealed room was not one of his better ideas.

The ricochets died down eventually, giving Leia and Han the peace they needed to have a really

< THERE'S SOMETHING ALIVE IN HERE!:

Inside the garbage crusher Luke was attacked and dragged beneath the piles of trash by the huge tentacle of a squid-like dianoga.

good shouting match about who was at fault for the predicament they were in.

The argument was cut short when the room was suddenly filled with an echoing, groaning sound. Luke was in the process of informing everyone that they were not alone when a thick tentacle grabbed Luke, and he vanished into the waist-high mire. He reappeared briefly, struggling with the slimy arm and a jammed blaster before being pulled under once more – despite everything Han and Leia tried to do to help.

Luke's temporary saviour was an automatic waste compression program. Machinery rumbled to life and the walls of the room lurched slightly. Luke reappeared – his captor having headed for safety. Safety from what became

horribly clear, as the walls began a relentless march towards each other.

Nothing in the room was strong enough to stop the slowly closing crusher. As his friends tried to stay above the level of the rising tide of compressed trash and foul water, Luke tried frantically to raise C-3PO.

There was no reply. The droids were having problems of their own...



'COUNT DOOKU WAS ONCE A JEDI. HE COULDN'T ASSASSINATE ANYONE. IT'S NOT IN HIS CHARACTER'

22 BBY DOO1

COUNT DOOKU

ENIGMATIC AND POWERFUL, COUNT DOOKU WAS A DANGEROUS AND MYSTERIOUS FIGURE ABOUT WHOM EVEN HIS OWN ALLIES KNEW LITTLE

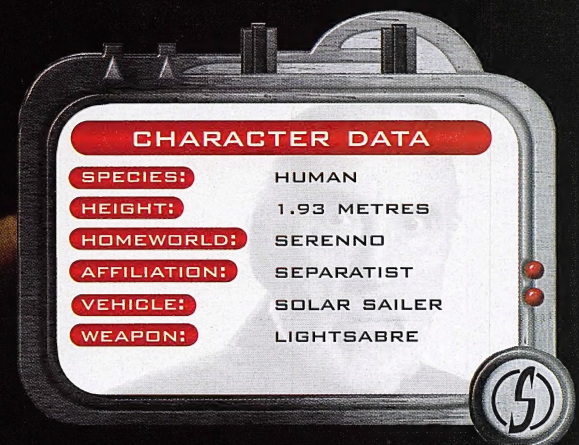
THE Dooku family was one of the most powerful and wealthy in the galaxy. The future Count's connection with the Force led him to the Jedi Temple on Coruscant at a suitably early age. However, as he grew older, Dooku slowly became disillusioned with the Republic the Jedi were serving.

Dooku's Master was none other than Yoda. But even the pre-eminent Jedi of his age could do little to rein in the fierce streak of independence that, on many occasions, placed Dooku at odds with his elders. It was this stubborn reliance on his own intuition over the guidance of others that prevented Dooku from rising to a place on any of the Jedi Councils.

Dooku studied at the Temple for many years, becoming a Master in his own right, and taking on Padawans of his own, including Qui-Gon Jinn. Master Dooku positively encouraged Qui-Gon's own independent streak.

The Count was very well respected by his peers, and was particularly friendly with Mace Windu. The two debated Dooku's views of power on numerous occasions. Dooku believed that the mysteries of the Sith, held in Holocons locked away in the Jedi library, should not be hidden and forbidden, but studied and fully understood by those of strong will and intellect.

Master Dooku had other views that were out of step with the Jedi Council, though many at least sympathized with him. Pre-eminent was Dooku's belief that corruption in the Republic had



CHARACTER DATA	
SPECIES:	HUMAN
HEIGHT:	1.93 METRES
HOMEWORLD:	SERENNO
AFFILIATION:	SEPARATIST
VEHICLE:	SOLAR SAILER
WEAPON:	LIGHTSABRE

spread to the point that the Jedi Order was itself tainted by being at the beck and call of the Senate. Dooku advocated a severing of all ties with the politicians.

A TURN TO THE DARK SIDE

A potent Jedi Master, Dooku was active in the field, mediating and settling many conflicts. At the Temple, his understanding of the Living Force and his mastery of the lightsabre made him a much sought-after teacher. Privately, he indulged his curiosity about the Sith Holocron, and slowly and inexorably he slipped into the shadows of the dark side of the Force.

Jedi Master Dooku was only the twentieth Jedi to renounce the Jedi Order willingly and depart the Temple, never to return. The momentous event



< AA FALL FROM GRACE: Once a respected Jedi Master, Count Dooku's lust for power caused him to look to the dark side to achieve this aim. As the newly appointed apprentice to Darth Sidious, he took the name Darth Tyranus and began to implement his Master's plan to destroy the Republic. Dooku's Jedi skills did not desert him and he could still count on his abilities with a lightsabre as well as his understanding of the Force to aid him in pursuit of his goals.

Tyranus was busy on behalf of his dark master. His first task was a dual one. A dark side cult had grown, commanded by a fallen Jedi called Komari Vos. At the same time, Darth Sidious commanded Tyranus to discover a perfect template for a clone army that he wished to commission. To do this Darth Tyranus posted an enormous bounty for the destruction of Komari Vos. The ensuing struggle brought two candidates for the role of Prime Clone to light.

Former Mandalorian warriors-turned-bounty-hunters Jango Fett and the brutal Montross did battle over the Vos bounty, with Fett eventually emerging victorious. Darth Tyranus approached Jango on one of the moons of Bogden and offered him the well-paid position of Prime Clone. Fett accepted.

occurred not long after the Battle of Naboo had claimed the life of Dooku's former Padawan, Qui-Gon Jinn. In fact, Dooku did not even join the many Jedi who travelled to Naboo for Qui-Gon's funeral. So utterly disenchanted with the Republic, the Senate and the Jedi Order had he become.

INTO DARKNESS

Assuming the title that was his birthright, Count Dooku seemed to vanish into the galaxy. The Jedi Order, saddened and stunned by this loss, assumed that Dooku had gone into an extended time

of contemplation while he decided what to do next. They could not have been more wrong.

Upon leaving the Order, Count Dooku was contacted by, and fell under the spell of, Darth Sidious. Sidious had been looking for a replacement for Darth Maul, someone better suited to the dark dealings that would spell the final end of the Republic. Aware of Dooku's power and his dark side leanings, Sidious took Dooku as his new apprentice and Darth Tyranus was born.

In the eight or nine years before he re-emerged into the public eye, Darth

'THIS IS THE MOMENT WHEN YOU HAVE TO DECIDE BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OR THE CONFEDERACY OF INDEPENDENT SYSTEMS'

22 BBY D003

THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT

HAVING DEALT WITH THE VOS INCIDENT AND FOUND A PRIME CLONE FOR THE KAMINOANS, DOOKU CONTINUED TO ADVANCE DARTH SIDIOUS'S PLANS

IN the guise of Count Dooku – an identity that, since his fall to the dark side, was more of a mask – Darth Tyrannus began to use his family fortune and influence to his own ends. Under the guidance of Darth Sidious, Count Dooku began to create a web of contacts within the commercial and

financial institutions and organizations in the galaxy.

Count Dooku was the public face of the separatist movement. Only a precious few were aware of who was behind the growing network of business and banking leaders who came together to advance their own greedy agenda. Finally, some eight years after he had first vanished from sight, Count Dooku reappeared.

ANTI-REPUBLICAN

Now, rather than quietly and harmlessly challenging the ideals of the Republic from within the Jedi Order, Dooku set out to confront and destroy the institution. As the leader of the separatist movement, Dooku led thousands of systems into seceding from the Republic. The rot quickly spread, and the Republic found itself in a crisis that threatened to rip it apart once and for all.

> OUR FRIENDS IN THE TRADE FEDERATION HAVE PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT: Dooku's initial moves to break up the Republic involved negotiating with innumerable star systems to persuade them to secede. Much of this work was done in conjunction with the Trade Federation, run by the Neimoidians, who were, in fact, mere puppets of Darth Sidious.



> YOU HAVE UNUSUAL POWERS, YOUNG PADAWAN:

As the Clone Wars began, Dooku found himself and his droid forces confronted by a Jedi army on Geonosis. In order to escape his Jedi pursuers, including Anakin, Obi-Wan and Yoda himself, Dooku had to use all his mastery of the dark side.



THE CLOAK OF DECENCY

Darth Sidious and his apprentice had brought about the creation of a clone army. In order to combat the threat of the separatists, the Republic was calling for a military force to be created for its defence. Now it was time for the clone army to be discovered, so that it could be used in battle against the droid armies of the Confederacy of Independent Systems.

To create that Confederacy, Dooku called his most prominent contacts to the world of Geonosis, where many of the droid forces used by those contacts were constructed. The corrupt and greedy leaders of trade, industry and finance were looking forward to a promised new golden age of capitalism and wealth, backed and defended by a combined army of droids that would trample the Republic and the Jedi Order to dust.

Obi-Wan Kenobi, who had already discovered the clone army on Kamino,

stumbled upon the meeting on Geonosis, and reported his findings to the Jedi Council. Obi-Wan was himself then captured, though he proved resistant to Darth Tyranus' temptations. It was of little importance to the Sith that their plans were brought forward by Obi-Wan's ingenuity. It was of equally scant import that Kenobi and his would-be rescuers should be executed. Indeed, the spectacle would further strengthen the resolve of certain parties within the Confederacy.

JEDI BATTLE

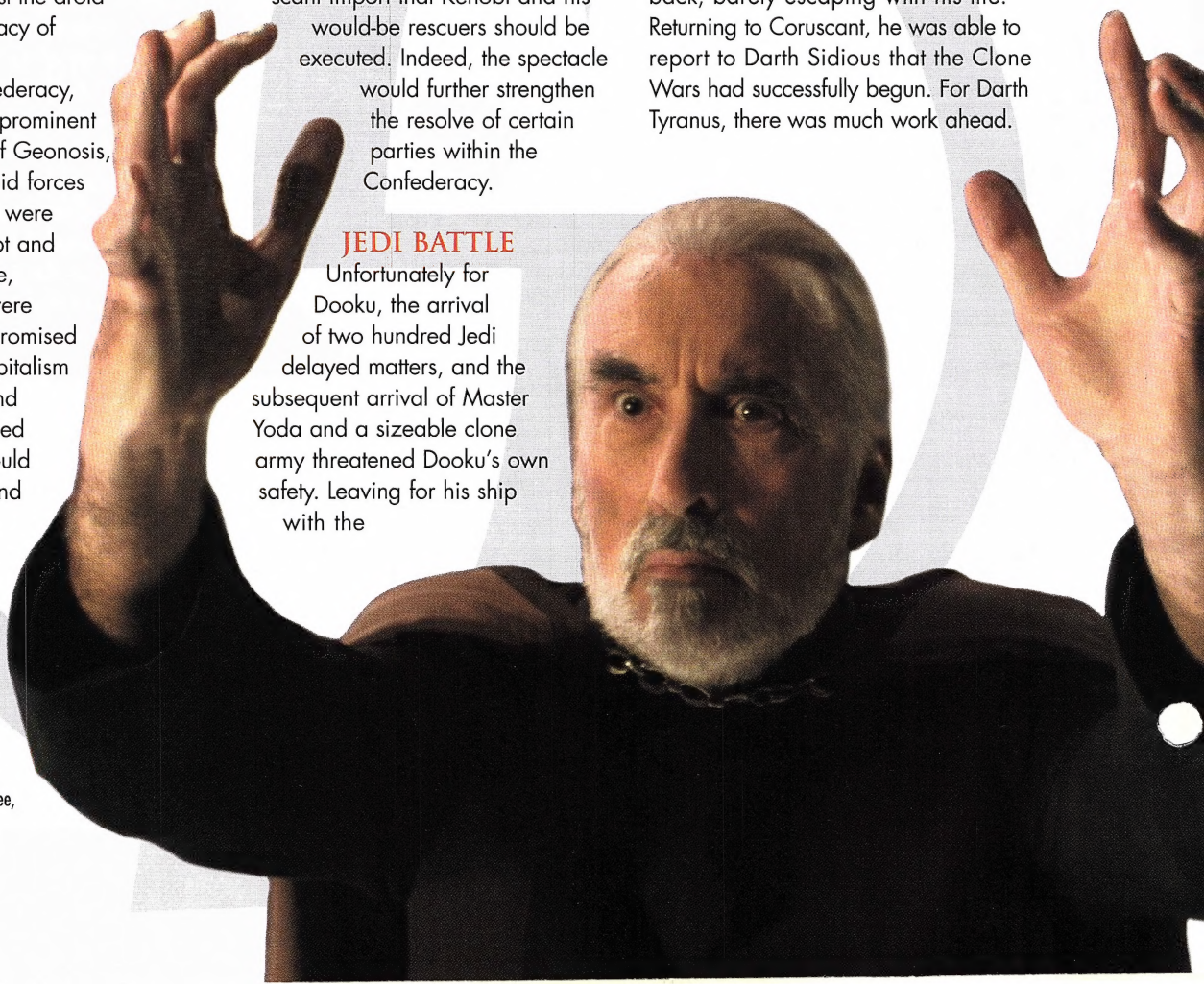
Unfortunately for Dooku, the arrival of two hundred Jedi delayed matters, and the subsequent arrival of Master Yoda and a sizeable clone army threatened Dooku's own safety. Leaving for his ship with the

plans for an ultimate superweapon, Dooku retreated to Coruscant.

Dooku first had to face Obi-Wan Kenobi and his Padawan Anakin Skywalker, but defeating the two Jedi was not a problem for the accomplished Master. However, when Master Yoda himself appeared, Dooku was driven back, barely escaping with his life. Returning to Coruscant, he was able to report to Darth Sidious that the Clone Wars had successfully begun. For Darth Tyranus, there was much work ahead.

> I HAVE BECOME MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY JEDI:

As he faced the Jedi on Geonosis, Dooku's overwhelming confidence was his biggest failing. Forced to flee, he headed for a rendezvous with Darth Sidious on Coruscant.



'THE CANTINA ALREADY HAS A BAND. WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER ONE'

4 ABY MAX 1

THE MAX REBO BAND

ONE OF THE FINEST BANDS IN THE GALAXY, MAX REBO'S

MOTLEY GROUP OF MUSICIANS WOULD FIND THEMSELVES

PLAYING IN THE UNLIKELIEST OF PLACES

THE Max Rebo Band initially came together under the name Evar Orbus and his Galactic Wailers. Orbus was a Lataki – possessed of eight tentacles, air and water gills, four eyes and a reasonable singing voice. He was better at making money than he was at singing, and he wasn't too good at that either as his obsession with hard currency tended to blind him to all else.

EARLY YEARS

Initially, Evar Orbus' band consisted of himself, a fussy Pa'lowick singer called Sy Snootles and an Ortolan keyboard player named Max Rebo. Max, like most members of his species, was obsessed with food. Willing to work for a pittance plus regular meals, the blue-skinned and tubby little musician was never a problem. Sy was a different matter. Better at business than Evar, and with a surprisingly

powerful voice that outshone Evar's own, Sy's contract meant that the band leader risked major legal complications if he didn't look after the demanding singer.

On Ovrax IV, Evar bought the fourth member of his band, the Kitonak slave called Snit – renamed Droopy McCool by the others. An exceptional chidinkalu horn player, Snit's mournful improvisations could calm the rowdiest audience. The final addition to the band turned up on Nar Shaddaa. While performing in a clapped-out dive of a tapcafé near a freighter port, Orbus and his band were playing a storm to an unappreciative audience when a new voice, one to rival Sy's, floated up from the crowd.

Its owner turned out to be a Yuzzum. It spoke a little Basic and seemed to be a free





◀ ▶ **VOCALS:** Sy Snootles and Joh Yowza provided the band with its impressive vocal section. Between them, the two singers could create a huge noise — enough to test the limits of most species' hearing.



◀ ▶ **WIND SECTION:** The Kitonak Droopy McCool was the band's talented horn player. Despite his pudgy fingers, he was capable of some wicked riffs on his chidinkalu horn. He was occasionally supported by local musicians.



agent, looking for little more than food and shelter. Evar knew a good thing when he heard one and signed the fluffy creature there and then — for food and shelter alone. Sy Snootles gave the Yuzzum his stage name, and so Joh Yowza completed the line-up.

EVAR'S LAST NOTE

Tatooine at sunset reminded Orbus of his homeworld. Looking around, the band leader felt more at peace than he had in a while. That the transport to take his little group and their equipment to Chalmun's cantina hadn't arrived was a minor irritation. Unfortunately, the minor irritation soon became a major one.

Chalmun was out of town on business, and the unhelpful Bith who took the initial call to the cantina aggravated Evar to say the least. After having to stand and listen to Sy Snootles going on about how the desert night was going to ruin her voice, and to Max Rebo complaining of lack of food, Evar was about to shoot the lot of them. He wasn't the only one.

An airbus manned by a bunch of Bith turned up to transport the band and equipment. Once aboard, the dome-headed Bith pulled blasters on the group and, with much evil laughter, promised to introduce Orbus and his Wailers to something called the sarlacc. Chalmun's Cantina already had a band, and it didn't like competition...

In the cramped confines of the airbus, Evar Orbus made his move. A prosthetic extension to one of the Lataki's tentacles was in fact a blaster. To say that the Bith were surprised, is an understatement, and the airbus was downed before it had even left Mos Eisley.

For a moment, it looked as though Evar had the upper tentacle. He had taken two of the Bith's blasters, and the group had survived the bus crash. Unfortunately, so too had the Bith. Evar was shot and killed, leaving the rest of the band to flee into the Tatooine night.

'THE DAY WE STOP BELIEVING DEMOCRACY CAN WORK IS THE DAY WE LOSE IT'

22 BBY JAM 1

QUEEN JAMILLIA

QUEEN AMIDALA STEPPED DOWN FROM HER ROYAL DUTIES AFTER SERVING TWO FULL TERMS IN OFFICE. HER ELECTED REPLACEMENT, QUEEN JAMILLIA, HAD A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

one largely out of gratitude for the strong stand she took against the Trade Federation. When Queen Amidala finally relinquished the ceremonial trappings of office, Jamillia was elected in her place.

QUEEN WITHOUT A CROWN

Jamillia had been born and brought up in the southeastern regions of Naboo. Like Amidala before her, she moved naturally into politics and, without even trying, became an obvious choice to replace Amidala. The most noticeable difference between the two was, however, that Queen Jamillia was considerably older than her predecessor.

Queen Jamillia quickly found herself in a different world – one where she was expected to wear restrictive ceremonial robes, to speak in slow and measured tones, to cover her face with symbolic cosmetics. That was tradition, that was what her people expected, and that was what she did.

One of Queen Jamillia's most obvious characteristics was her generosity of spirit – not something that all previous rulers had been noted for. Almost her first act on taking the throne was to continue to expand the contacts

WITHIN a collection of planets and cultures as large as the Old Republic, there were examples of every possible system of rule imaginable. The system used by the inhabitants of Naboo was, while rare, not entirely unique. Whereas many other planets opted for rule either by royalty or by a democratically elected group of politicians, Naboo attempted to combine the two. Its royalty – a ruling king or queen – was directly elected from a pool of people who had

already demonstrated their service and commitment to the population.

The rule of the King or Queen of Naboo was counted in terms that lasted for four years. No monarch could rule for more than two terms – and even gaining that second term depended on the approval of the population. Queen Amidala ruled for the full two terms, and won the second

CHARACTER DATA

SPECIES:	HUMAN
HEIGHT:	1.57 METRES
HOMEWORLD:	NABOO
AFFILIATION:	REPUBLIC
VEHICLE:	ROYAL CRUISER
WEAPON:	NONE



▲ > WE'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU:

When Padmé Amidala returned to the safety of Naboo after the repeated attempts on her life on Coruscant, Queen Jamillia's genuine concern for the well-being of her predecessor was clear. The new Queen gladly went along with Padmé's plan to remain hidden on Naboo.

that Queen Amidala had made with the Gungans – the amphibious race with whom the people of Naboo shared their world. Numerous joint ventures were put in place, including an ambitious attempt to make the moons of Naboo fit for human – and Gungan – habitation. Similarly, when the separatist crisis began to sweep across the Republic, and world after world left its warm but bureaucratic embrace, Queen Jamillia unhesitatingly threw open Naboo's borders to refugees who had been displaced from their homeworlds.

Although some previous rulers of Naboo had been keen to sideline their predecessors, not wanting to be embarrassed by well-meaning advice, Queen Jamillia asked Padmé Amidala to become Naboo's representative in the Galactic Senate – replacing Senator Palpatine, who had been elected Supreme Chancellor of the Republic. Although Padmé had wished to retire gracefully to her family home, she could only accept. She knew – as Queen Jamillia did – that the bad times were not yet

< WE MUST KEEP OUR FAITH IN THE

REPUBLIC: Queen Jamillia shared many of her predecessor's qualities. An astute politician with a strong humanitarian streak, she, like Padmé, mixed her obvious compassion with the practical temperament required of a world leader.



over. When several attempts were made on Padmé's life, Queen Jamillia gave the Senator sanctuary on Naboo, hiding her from her enemies despite the threat that Jamillia's charity might bring to the planet itself.

POLITICAL INSIGHT

During the meeting that Jamillia and Padmé Amidala had as soon as the Senator arrived back on Naboo, Jamillia's first concern was the health and well-being of her predecessor. Only once her anxiety had been calmed did she turned to more important political matters. She asked how many systems had joined Count Dooku and the separatists, showing her firm grasp of galactic political events. She then asked her advisers if there were anything that could persuade the separatists to reconcile their differences with the Republic.

Having been briefed on the threats facing the Republic, and having established that Amidala would be safe on Naboo under the protection of a Jedi Padawan, Queen Jamillia closed the reunion by suggesting that Amidala visit her family before moving to a more secluded location. It was a suggestion that showed the new monarch's true humanitarian spirit.

'CUNNING AND RUTHLESSNESS INEVITABLY TRIUMPH OVER ALL THE HIGH-MINDED IDEALS THAT THE UNIVERSE CAN GENERATE'

4 ABY FET25

BACK FROM THE DEAD

DURING HAN SOLO'S ESCAPE FROM JABBA THE HUTT AT THE PIT OF CARKOON, BOBA FETT WAS KNOCKED INTO THE MAW OF THE SARLACC.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF THE BOUNTY HUNTER, BUT HE WAS FAR TOO RESOURCEFUL TO DIE THAT EASILY

THE Mandalorian armour that was so famous throughout the galaxy could not save Boba Fett from the Sarlacc, which usually kept its victims alive for thousands of years as it slowly digested them. The beast attached suckers to Fett's body, pumping toxins into his bloodstream and plunging him into a demented nightmare that almost cost him his identity. He managed to hold on just long enough to blast straight through the Sarlacc's body and out into the harsh Tatooine desert.

There he lay until fellow bounty hunter Dengar found him. Dengar nursed the injured bounty hunter back to health. While Fett was still recovering, he was visited by Neelah – a woman he had rescued earlier and taken to Jabba's Palace for safe keeping. She had no memory of who she was, and before they could work it out, Dengar's hideout was bombed by an old enemy, Kuat of Kuat – the owner of the Kuat Drive

Yards. The trio fought their way out past the Sarlacc, which had since regenerated.

They soon found that Tatooine was crawling with bounty hunters and others seeking to gain from Jabba's death. Bossk, another old enemy, had arrived and had gained access to Fett's ship, *Slave I*. Bossk planted bombs aboard the vessel, but Fett found them and sent them up in a cargo module instead. He then planted convincing fake bombs in Bossk's ship, the *Hound's Tooth*, forcing the Tradoshan to flee.

Fett, with his new associates, took over the *Hound's Tooth* and left *Slave I* behind – they would later discover that the ship had been appropriated by the New Republic.

The group went to the mechanical web in space that was the graveyard of Ku'dar Mu'bat – a strange creature also known as the Assembler. Fett had tangled with it earlier, when it had embroiled him in a plan to bring down the Bounty Hunters' Guild. Now he had decided to revive it, since it probably



had information that would solve the mystery of Neelah's origin. The creature had arranged two jobs for Ree Dumpton – the bounty hunter owner of the derelict ship in which Fett had found Neelah.

FALSE EVIDENCE

The revived Assembler gave Fett some of the information he wanted. Fett had just begun to torture the rest out of it when the web came under fire. The fight stopped when the attacker revealed itself to be Balancesheet – a part of Ku'dar Mu'bat that had declared itself independent of its 'parent'. It offered to help Fett and told him that the evidence against Prince Xizor had been fabricated by Kuat of



Kuat – a relative of Neelah's. She had been mind-wiped to get her out of the way of her ambitious sister.

Unfortunately, the evidence had been on *Slave I* – which meant it was now on

Y A A STRANGE WOMAN: After his escape from the Sarlacc, Boba Fett found himself in trouble once more when he teamed up with Neelah – a mysterious woman he had previously rescued. In order to help Neelah, Fett faced and defeated a variety of adversaries, including Kuat of Kuat, Bossk and Ku'dar Mu'bat.

Tatooine with Bossk. Kuat of Kuat had let it be known that he wanted Fett dead – and half the bounty hunters in the galaxy were only too happy to help. But Fett managed to fight his way through, and eventually he found Bossk, who sold him the location of *Slave I*. Fett retrieved the evidence, then met up with Dengar and Neelah at the Kuat Design Yards.

YARD ATTACK

Kuat of Kuat tried to destroy the yards rather than lose control of them, but Fett stopped him just as Neelah's sister turned up and tried to sell the evidence to the New Republic in return for ownership of the Yards. In the chaos, Fett took control of a Star Destroyer, which he later gave to Neelah in return for the *Hound's Tooth* and her silence.

It wasn't much of a ship, but it would do until Fett could get *Slave I* back.



NOTHING MAGICAL ABOUT IT... PRIMITIVE HOLOGRAM TECHNOLOGY!

27 ABY HOL1

JEDI HOLOCRONS

REVIVING A TECHNOLOGY THAT WAS LOST MILLENNIA AGO, AT LEAST ONE JEDI HOLOCRON HAS PROVIDED A VITAL LINK BETWEEN THE NEW JEDI ORDER AND THE JEDI OF THE OLD REPUBLIC

FOR a thousand generations, the Jedi worked hard to ensure that peace flourished throughout the galaxy. During that time, a number of repositories of Jedi knowledge developed, whose scope and sheer magnitude have become legendary.

Of these, the library on the planet Ossus is perhaps the most famous. Tragically, it was obliterated when the ten stars of the nearby Cron cluster were exploded by the weapons of the ancient Sith High Priest, Naga Sadow. What vast knowledge and wisdom was lost in the ensuing conflagration is now a matter for myths and stories to imagine.

In more recent times, the Archives at the Jedi Temple on Coruscant were similarly vast. Already being corrupted in the years immediately preceding the Clone Wars, these records were later systematically destroyed by the forces of Emperor Palpatine.

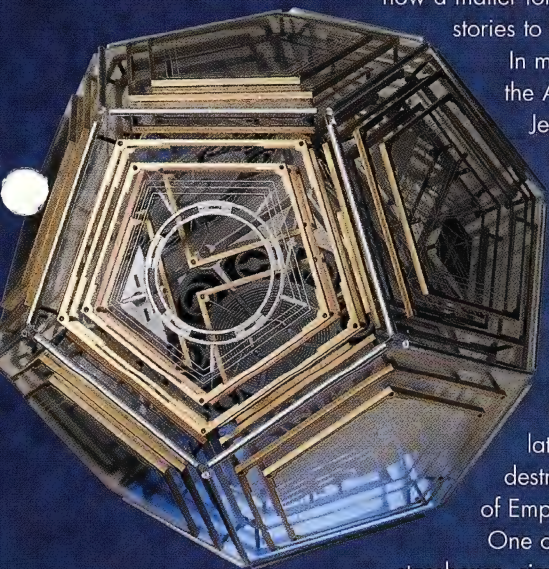
One other Jedi

storehouse, similar in scope but disproportionately small (it can fit in the palm of a hand), is the Jedi Holocron. Capable of conveying great swathes of data via hologram representations of long-dead Jedi, its discreet size and the sheer number of Holocrons that once existed mean

that at least one has survived Emperor Palpatine's Jedi purges.

Following his initial training on Dagobah, Luke Skywalker began searching for artefacts that would provide a link to the Jedi of old. While staying in Obi-Wan Kenobi's hut on Tatooine, Luke uncovered an ancient, leather-bound volume that included instructions on how to build a lightsabre, as well as insights into the ways of the Jedi and the use of Holocrons.

Similarly, after being captured by the cloned Emperor, Princess Leia Organa was shown a Holocron that had



A ANCIENT RECORDS:

The Jedi were able to store vast amounts of information in small repositories known as Holocrons. Often created by ancient Jedi, most were destroyed during the purges of Emperor Palpatine.





been made by the long-dead Jedi Master Bodo Baas. After taking the Emperor unawares, Leia was able to steal the Holocron and bring it back to the New Republic.

During the short time that Luke Skywalker spent with Obi-Wan Kenobi, he had been told about Holocrons. Kenobi had described them as a great source of wisdom that could be used in the restoration of the Jedi Order.

Thousands of years ago, every Jedi Master had their own Holocron and used them to document matters

<> THE LAST HOLOCRON?:

Following Palpatine's purges, one of the few Jedi Holocrons to have survived fell into the hands of the Emperor himself. During her capture by the resurrected Emperor, Princess Leia stole the object and was able to access some of its secrets.

of importance. Often, Jedi Masters recorded histories in the Holocrons, sometimes even managing to store actual images of events that had taken place, while at other times simply describing those incidents in their own words.

Masters also recorded their teachings on these holographic devices. They used them to store their insights into the Force, or to record important meditation or training techniques – sometimes Holocrons even contained a series of lessons that Jedi apprentices could work through.

FORCE SKILLS

Finally, Holocrons also held information on special Force abilities. When he was in possession of Bodo Baas' Holocron, Luke Skywalker used it to research Corran Horn's proficiency in the Force-skill known as Alter Mind.



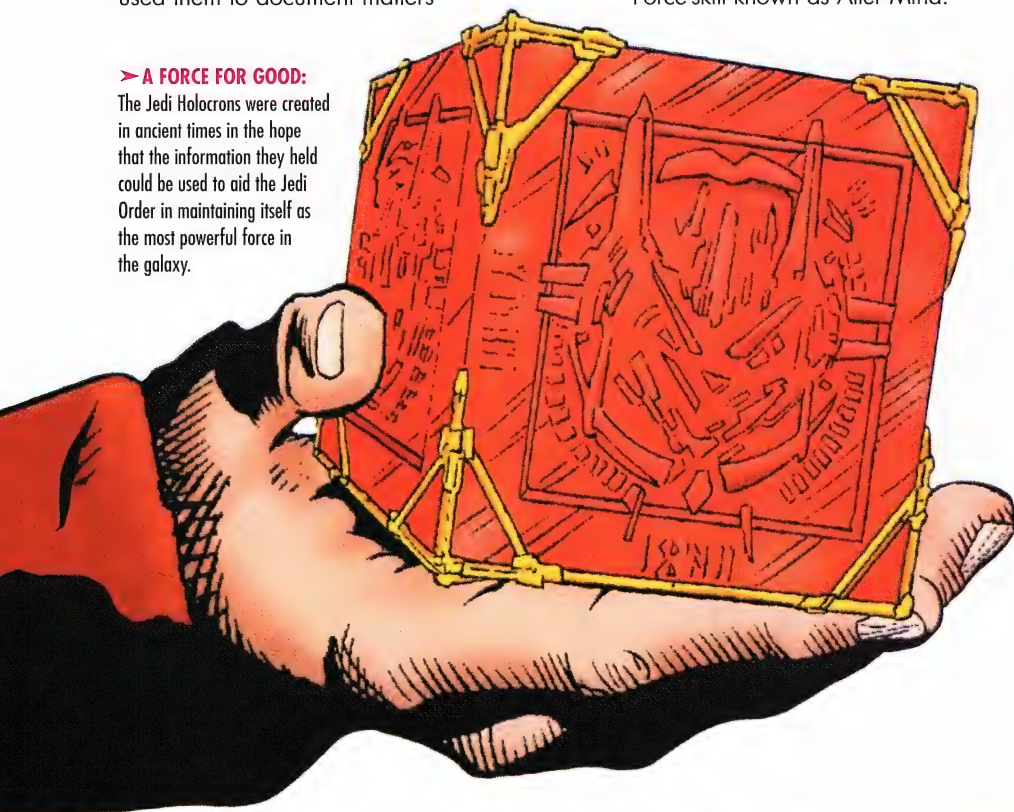
For millennia, Holocrons were an integral part of the Jedi way of life. Then, almost overnight, the lore on how to create new Holocrons was lost. It has been speculated that the knowledge and tools needed to create these devices was held only in the library on Ossus. Following its destruction, Holocrons were used less and less.

However, a number of unused Holocrons still remained, and from time to time, Jedi Masters would happen upon these and decide to make use of them. It was for this reason that Bodo Baas was able to record his own thoughts and memories, over 3,000 years after the devastation of Ossus.

With the passage of time, Holocrons were increasingly highly treasured. By the time of Emperor Palpatine's rise to power, many had been taken to the Jedi Archives for safe keeping. However, several were still kept by individual Jedi, and were passed down from Master to Padawan. This was certainly the case with Bodo Baas' Holocron, which was in the possession of Ashka Boda when he was captured and taken before Emperor Palpatine.

> A FORCE FOR GOOD:

The Jedi Holocrons were created in ancient times in the hope that the information they held could be used to aid the Jedi Order in maintaining itself as the most powerful force in the galaxy.



JEDI. HEAR THE WORDS OF BODO BAAS'

BODO BAAS' HOLOCRON

THE ONLY HOLOCRON, SO FAR, TO HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED BY THE NEW ORDER OF JEDI, BODO BAAS' HOLOCRON PROVED IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVEN LUKE SKYWALKER TO PENETRATE



A member of a long-lived species, the Jedi Master Bodo Baas began recording his Holocron some 600 years before the fall of the Old Republic. Like all Jedi Holocrons, Baas' device was a small cube that could fit in the palm of one hand.

For some reason, Sith Holocrons are pyramidal in shape, and there has been considerable speculation as to why this is. Holocrons have no obvious energy source and some people think that the different shapes help the Holocrons to harness different Force energies. Therefore, the cubic Holocrons tap into the light side of the Force, while the pyramidal Holocrons draw on the dark side. Alternatively, the shapes may simply help Jedi to determine a Holocron's genus.

Jedi Holocrons themselves are made of intricate lattices of organic crystal, contained inside a metal case. It is believed that some were very plain and unadorned. However, Bodo Baas' device boasted a series

of highly detailed geometric shapes, etched into both the case and the crystal faces.

The Jedi Master who starts to record a Holocron always becomes that Holocron's gatekeeper. This means that the device stores a copy of his cognitive network, and uses it to form a search, recovery and storage allocation program. A projected image of a Holocron's gatekeeper is usually the first

<> SHAPE AND

FORM: While Jedi Holocrons such as Bodo Baas' were cube-shaped, Sith Holocrons were usually pyramidal. Some have suggested that these shapes are indicative of the light and dark sides of the Force.



thing that is seen after the device has been activated.

Different Hologrons are activated in different ways. Some require the user to speak a password or touch a particular panel. Bodo Baas' Hologron simply needed to be touched by a Force user. Although this meant that it could be accessed by a Sith Lord such as Emperor Palpatine, the gatekeeper was able to restrict certain areas of knowledge depending on how



adept the user was and what type of Force energies they were drawing on.

A Hologron's gatekeeper was perhaps the most impressive aspect of these technological marvels, for the Hologrons recreate in astonishing detail both the gatekeeper's appearance and also their personality. Moreover, as well as providing information in response to specific requests, the gatekeepers seem able to sense what events are taking place in the users' lives and tell related stories.

ANCIENT PROPHECY

For example, when Luke Skywalker was being tempted to the dark side by the cloned Emperor, Bodo Baas' Hologron related an ancient prophecy to Princess Leia, that foretold her very situation. Similarly, when Luke first showed Baas' Hologron to his Jedi Academy on Yavin 4, it immediately told a story about Exar Kun – an ancient dark Jedi who had, unbeknown to Luke and his students, been reawakened by the Jedi's presence.

Curiously, in addition to the main gatekeeper, many Hologrons – including Baas' one – used auxiliary gatekeepers to explore different topics. For example, Baas' Hologron used the image of Vodo-Siosk Baas to tell the tale of the Great Sith Wars 4,000 years earlier.

These auxiliary gatekeepers were extraordinary because they, too, offered a very realistic interpretation of the Jedi on whom they were based, even though these Jedi were often long dead. Occasionally, listeners came to regret the detail into which the Jedi Masters went, for some of them lacked even basic narrative skills.

A Y STRANGE POWER: Bodo Baas' Hologron was used by the Emperor in an effort to turn Princess Leia to the dark side. Although the scheme failed, the Emperor had correctly guessed that, as a Jedi, Leia would be subconsciously drawn to the object. In this alone, the Emperor's efforts illustrated the strange beguiling power of these ancient objects.

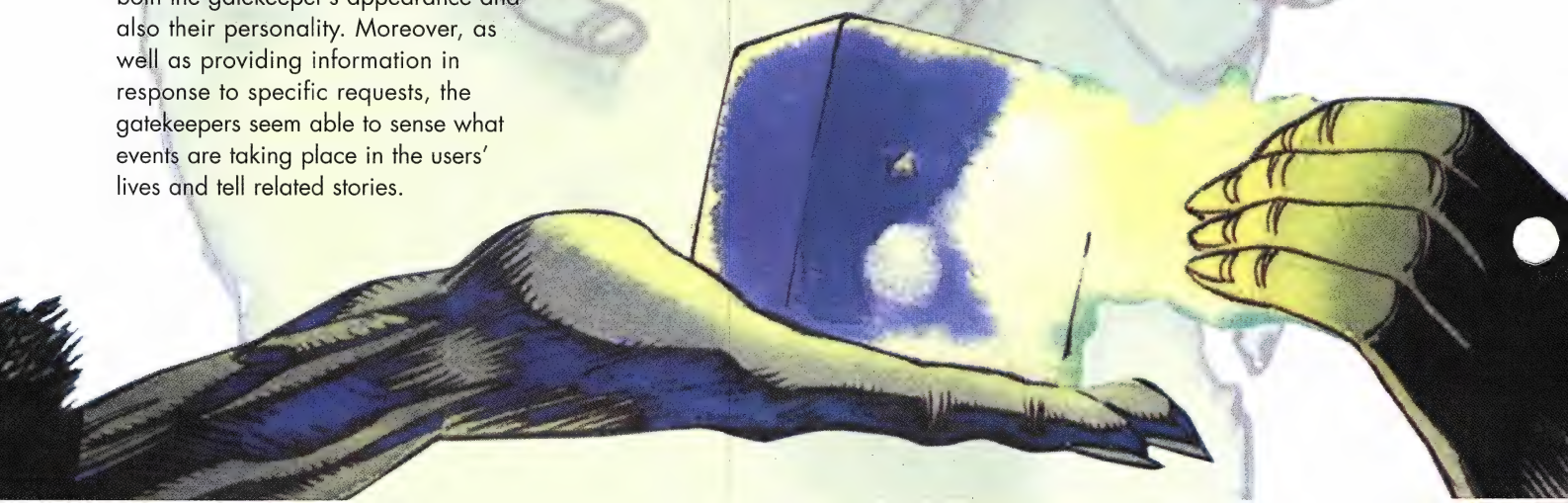


A SITH HOLOGRON:

For many, the pyramid shape of the Sith Hologrons indicated that the objects offered insights into the dark side of the Force. Others believe the shape was used merely to identify the objects as Sith rather than Jedi Hologrons.

Some people believe that the interpretations were achieved by copying data held on other Hologrons – this would certainly explain how one Jedi Master was able to record so much Jedi lore. Others have speculated that the Hologrons act as a focal point for the life forces of these dead Jedi, and that when they project a hologram, the Hologrons are actually projecting those life forces.

What the truth of the matter is may never be determined, for in the first months of the Jedi Academy, Bodo Baas' Hologron was destroyed by the spirit of Exar Kun. Since that time, no other Hologron has been found. However, hope remains that, somewhere in the galaxy, one of these amazing storehouses of Jedi wisdom is waiting to be discovered.



'COME IN! THAT'S RIGHT! LOW, KEEP YOUR HEAD! CAREFUL, CAREFUL...'

3 ABY DAG7

YODA'S HUT

IN THE GLOOM OF THE DANK DAGOBAH SWAMPS,
ONE PLACE GLOWED WITH A WARM GOLDEN LIGHT
— THE HOME OF JEDI MASTER YODA

WHEN Yoda came to Dagobah, he brought with him little save his lightsabre. Everything else he could possibly need, Yoda found or made from materials supplied by the dank and sinister planet that was his new home. This suited the diminutive Jedi — his quarters at the Jedi Temple had been spartan even by the standards of the once-esteemed Order.

Yoda chose to build his house on Dagobah near a long, deep lagoon that never flooded. The little hut was worked into the roots of an immense old tree. Built of stones and mud, the limbs of trees and lengths of cut vine, Yoda's small home was sturdy, waterproof and warm. Over the long years, he waited for his last pupil to arrive. Many vines grew over and around his hut, further strengthening it against the elements.

SWAMP STYLE

The design of his home was perfect for Yoda. The house was curved and flowing, with no straight lines to clash

with the natural order of the swamp. Rainwater simply ran off and drained away. The small windows of the house looked almost like balefully glowing eyes, gazing out into the darkness. This was mainly due to the heavy upper 'eyelid' that each window had to prevent the near-constant rain from getting in. The local creatures soon came to realize that this new resident was to be avoided.

A HUMBLE ABODE

Inside, a main living area was accessed through a short tunnel from the outside world. The tunnel sloped down to the swamps beyond, preventing water from draining into the house. The main area had a small, flat column rising up from the floor that acted as a table. The fire that warmed the house and cooked Yoda's food was set off to one side, with



<MUDHOLE? SLIMY? MY HOME THIS IS:

When Luke Skywalker travelled to Dagobah to find Yoda and came upon what appeared to be a small, helpless creature living in a humble hut, he had no idea that the creature was the great Jedi Master, Yoda.



EAT, EAT, HOT: One of the few comforts incorporated into Yoda's hut was a small fire on which the Jedi Master burned kindling that he collected nearby. The fire provided the hut with both light and heat, and allowed the diminutive Yoda the occasional luxury of hot food.

a pile of wood and kindling near by. Off the open living space was Yoda's sleeping pallet, set up on a raised-edged shelf, and a small kitchen. Scattered around, on small shelves in little alcoves, were handwritten scrolls, tools, pots and pans.

Built into the walls of Yoda's home were remarkable clumps of crystals. These stored up what little light day brought, as well as the flickering glow of the fire, and threw it back, magnified many times. They gave the house enough light for those within to see by.

YODA MOVES ON

When Yoda finally became one with the Force, the crystals stopped beaming forth their light. The house darkened one last time, even as Luke Skywalker watched from a short distance away, mourning the passing of the greatest of Jedi Masters. Years later, when Luke returned to Dagobah, he found that the swamp had reclaimed Yoda's hut, leaving nothing behind but memories.



ACOME, COME: The interior of Yoda's home was warm and dry. Protected by the roots of the tree into which it had been built, the hut provided a humble shelter from the cold and dank environment of the Dagobah swamps.

'IT LOOKS LIKE SKYWALKER IS MOVING UP THROUGH THE FIELD'

32 BBY POD1

PODRACE CAM DROID

THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POINT IN TURNING UP FOR THE BOONTA
EVE CLASSIC, OR ANY OTHER PODRACE, WERE IT NOT FOR THE
SCORES OF PODRACE CAM DROIDS THAT RELAYED IMAGES
FROM THE EPIC CONTESTS

WITHOUT the aid of countless Podrace cam droids the spectators at Podraces would not have been able to see the action as the races unfolded. Podrace cam droids, like those that were used in the Galactic Senate, were a variety of holocam – a holographic recording and transmitting device that could be found serving many purposes across the galaxy.

BLAZING SPEED

The ability of the Podrace cam droids to keep track of the fast and furious races was down to their clever design. The small, domed droids were fitted with a pair of repulsorlift wings which kept them off the ground. The engines that powered such droids were well tuned and extremely fast. They had to be – speed was of the essence if they were to catch all the action.

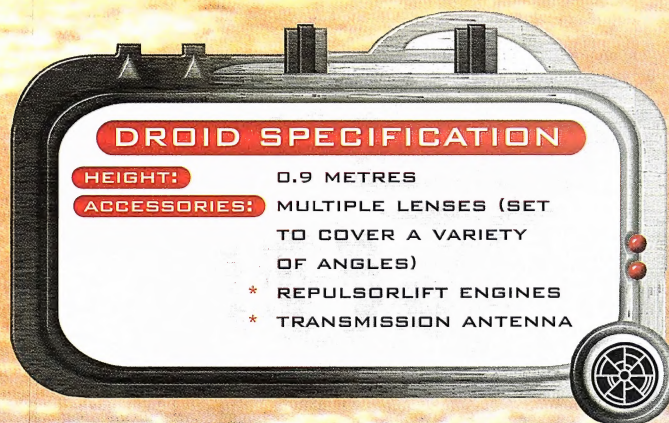


A WHAT A MOVE:

As one of the fastest-moving sports in the galaxy, Podracing could prove as taxing as it was exciting for the spectators. The invention of the Podrace cam droid allowed crowds to follow all the action at close quarters and in real time.

The designers also added a triple-whammy of fine-tuned camera lenses, which equipped the droid for capturing the action in almost all conditions. The lenses functioned in the most extreme environments, including virulent Tatooine sandstorms and even the darkest of nights. The multiple lenses also allowed the droid to capture fast-moving Podracers on key-turns as well as on speed flats.

With its limited intelligence, the Podrace cam droid could be programmed to follow a specific Podracer or to observe certain sections of any given race course.



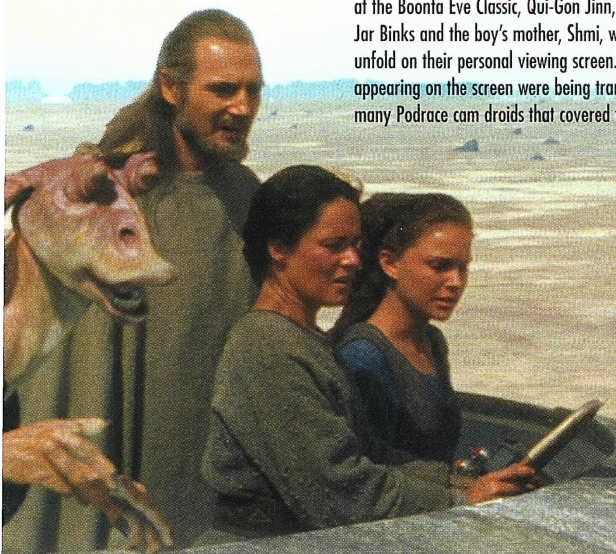
DROID SPECIFICATION

HEIGHT:	0.9 METRES
ACCESSORIES:	MULTIPLE LENSES (SET TO COVER A VARIETY OF ANGLES)
	* REPULSORLIFT ENGINES
	* TRANSMISSION ANTENNA



POD2 32 BBY

Y IS HE NERVOUS?: As they cheered on Anakin Skywalker at the Boonta Eve Classic, Qui-Gon Jinn, Padmé Amidala, Jar Jar Binks and the boy's mother, Shmi, watched the events unfold on their personal viewing screen. The images appearing on the screen were being transmitted by the many Podrace cam droids that covered the course.



The images the flotilla of such droids captured were transmitted via a special antenna to a variety of viewscreens. The spectacular Arena Citadel at the Mos Espa circuit was equipped with huge screens that featured a steady flow of images from the Podrace cam droids. From the betting floors, punters from all over the galaxy could monitor close-up views of the races. Despite this, most Podracing fans preferred to rent a small hand-held viewscreen or electro-binoculars.

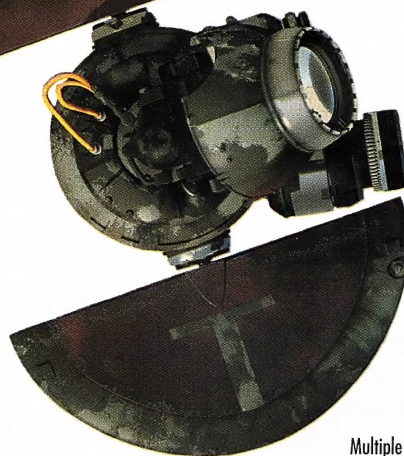
CLOSE SCRUTINY

Only through the lens of such a droid could an excited crowd get a close-up view of their favourite Podracers competing against their biggest racing rivals. Only with scores of Podrace cam droids monitoring the course were they likely to catch a glimpse of a spectacular high-speed collision. And only with such a droid could spectators keep an eye on the racer on whom they had placed a season's savings.

The rocks overlooking the Boonta Eve course were once equipped with an array of race cameras, but over time the equipment was either dashed to pieces by bits of flying Podracer or stolen by the many thieves and scavengers who prowl the Tatooine wastelands. For this reason, the Podrace cam droid was a welcome invention and one that came to dominate the filming of the sport.

Transmission
Antenna

Repulsorlift
Wing

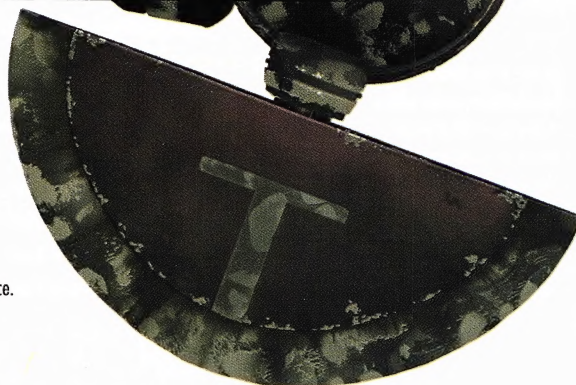


Multiple Camera
Lenses

Repulsorlift Engines
(internal)

> DARK EYES:

The Podrace cam droids were built for optimum speed and manoeuvrability. Their multiple lenses made it possible for them to cover virtually all angles during a race.





27 ABY LAM2

INFORM THE COMMANDER THAT LORD VADER'S SHUTTLE HAS ARRIVED

LAMBDA-CLASS SHUTTLE

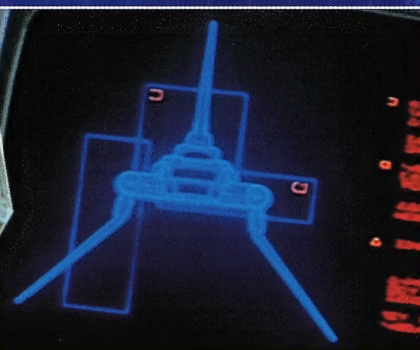
THE IMPERIAL SHUTTLE *TYDIRIUM* PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE REBELS' ASSAULT ON THE FOREST MOON OF ENDOR

THERE were several known variants of the *Lambda*-class shuttle in service with the Empire at the height of Emperor Palpatine's reign. These included an electronic countermeasures version that mounted jamming gear in its cargo area, and the Cygnus Spaceworks heavy shuttle, which had reduced engine capacity and speed to make way for thicker durasteel armour plating through the hull. The tougher Cygnus *Lambda*-class variant also mounted ten laser cannons in forward and aft turrets instead of the standard mix of five double blasters and double lasers. The *Lambda*-class

proved versatile enough that subcontractor Cygnus went on to manufacture three other hull types based on the basic design – the *Sentinel*-class landing craft, the *Delta*-class JV-7 escort shuttle and the heavily armed *Alpha*-class Xg-1 star wing assault gunboat.

Perhaps the most notable *Lambda*-class shuttle in the history of the Galactic Civil

War was the *Tydirium*, a lowly transport craft that was hijacked after the Battle of Hoth by the forces of the Rebel Alliance. After the discovery of the Emperor's project to build a second Death Star in orbit around the Forest Moon of Endor, the *Tydirium* was used in a covert mission to place a strike team on the moon's surface. Masquerading as a standard shipment of parts and technical crew, General Han Solo led the Wookiee Chewbacca, the Jedi Knight Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia Organa and a contingent of troops down to the planet and successfully completed his mission to disable the Death Star's shield generator, opening the way for a destructive starfighter assault on the new battle station.



DO THEY HAVE CODE CLEARANCE?: In the run-up to the Battle of Endor, the Rebels used a *Lambda*-class shuttle with stolen codes to bypass Imperial security.



Double Blaster Cannon

Comm Grid

Double Laser Cannon

Wings-up Position (for landing)

LOWER WINGS:

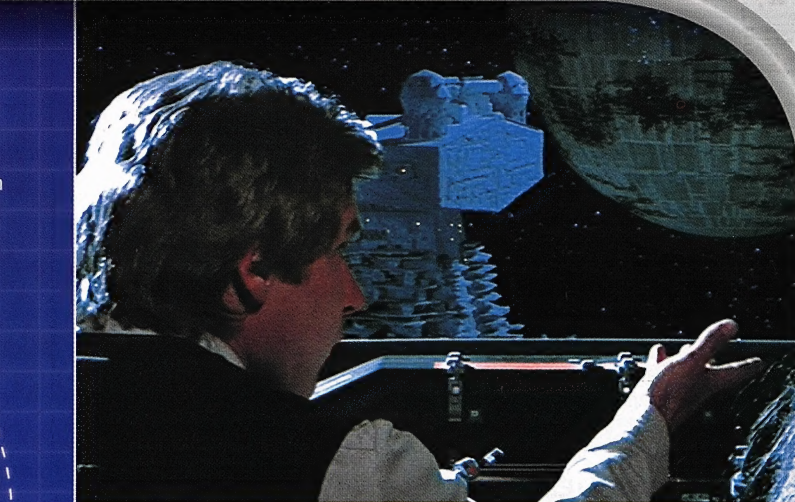
During flight operations, the *Lambda*-class shuttle's wings would reposition themselves into their down-swept mode. In this state, the shuttle resembled an inverted 'Y'. The deployed wings concealed small ion thrusters that kept the ship stable even at high sublight speeds, giving it a smooth ride and making the *Lambda*-class a nimble craft to pilot. In atmospheric flight, the wings served as aerofoils. Prior to landing, the lower wings folded up to rest flush with the upper stabilizer.

TWIN LASER CANNONS:

The *Lambda*-class shuttle was armed with Taim & Bak KXS laser cannons that were mounted in gimbal pods on the port and starboard wing roots. These could attack targets in the shuttle's forward arc, or be depressed downward by up to 30 degrees in order to fire on ground-based targets.

COMMUNICATIONS GRID:

On the chin of the shuttle's arrowhead-shaped cockpit module was a complex array of communications gear and compact antennae tied into the web of Imperial transmissions and the galactic HoloNet. As high-ranking officers or political figures often used *Lambda*-class shuttles, it was essential that the passengers be kept in touch with the Empire at large. Frequently, an officer would be assigned to a shuttle's crew specifically to handle communication duties.



A HIJACKED SHUTTLE: The shuttle *Tydirium* played a key part in the downfall of the Empire, helping Han Solo and his task force to slip through the Imperial lines to the Forest Moon of Endor.

Upper Stabilizer

Boarding Ramp (retracted)

Cooling Intake

BOARDING RAMP:

The 'neck' of the shuttle served as the ship's boarding ramp, dropping down on landing to allow for quick egress of cargo or personnel. The wide platform meant the ship could disgorge its entire payload of passengers or equipment in a matter of moments, an essential feature when touching down in dangerous landing zones.

VEHICLE SPECIFICATION

TYPE:

SIENAR FLEET SYSTEMS
LAMBDA-CLASS SHUTTLE

CREW:

4 COMMAND CREW,
2 OFFICERS

CAPACITY:

20 PASSENGERS OR
80 METRIC TONNES CARGO

LENGTH:

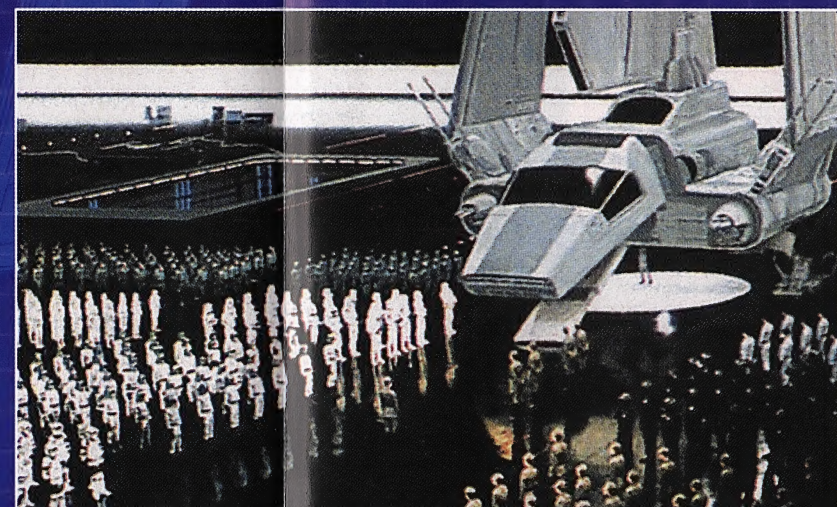
20 METRES

SPEED:

50 MGLT

AFFILIATION:

EMPIRE





'SHUTTLE TYDIRIUM, WHAT IS YOUR CARGO AND DESTINATION?'

27 ABY LAM 1

LAMBDA-CLASS IMPERIAL SHUTTLE

THE LAMBDA-CLASS SHUTTLE WAS A COMMON SIGHT ON MOST IMPERIAL WORLDS, TRANSPORTING HIGH-LEVEL STAFF AND PERFORMING IMPORTANT COURIER DUTIES ACROSS THE EMPIRE

DESIGNED and built by Sienar Fleet Systems, the Empire's primary shipwrights, the *Lambda*-class shuttle was carried as a standard part of the auxiliary vessels complement on board all Star Destroyers and space stations. The vehicles were also based at most major garrisons.

At just over 20 metres in length, the shuttle was capable of transporting anything from general supplies to the highest level of Imperial staff, even the Emperor himself. With a capacious storage area, these shuttles could handle a respectable cargo payload of 80 metric tonnes. When fitted with seating in the cargo bay, the *Lambda*-class could ferry 20 passengers, although most often the shuttles carried a mix of the two. Shuttles captured by the Rebel Alliance were frequently converted into ambulance craft, with the addition of a small medical bay inside and droid surgical staff.

VIP FLIGHT

With their graceful appearance and capable weapons systems, the *Lambda*-class often went into service as the personal

transport of senior-ranking members of the Imperial command staff, such as garrison leaders, government officials and planetary governors. In these shuttles,

the cargo areas were typically refitted with comfortable cabins and additional luxuries in keeping with the personal taste of the passenger. Darth Vader often travelled on board a modified *Lambda*-class shuttle when he was not piloting his own personal TIE Advanced x1 prototype, as did many members of the Imperial Grand Inquisition. Their specially modified shuttles mounted data encrypted HoloNet transmitters with direct links to Imperial City on Coruscant, and heavier hull armour. Emperor Palpatine also had a small group of specially equipped *Lambda*-class shuttles at his command, each rumoured to be fitted with an impenetrable cloaking device.

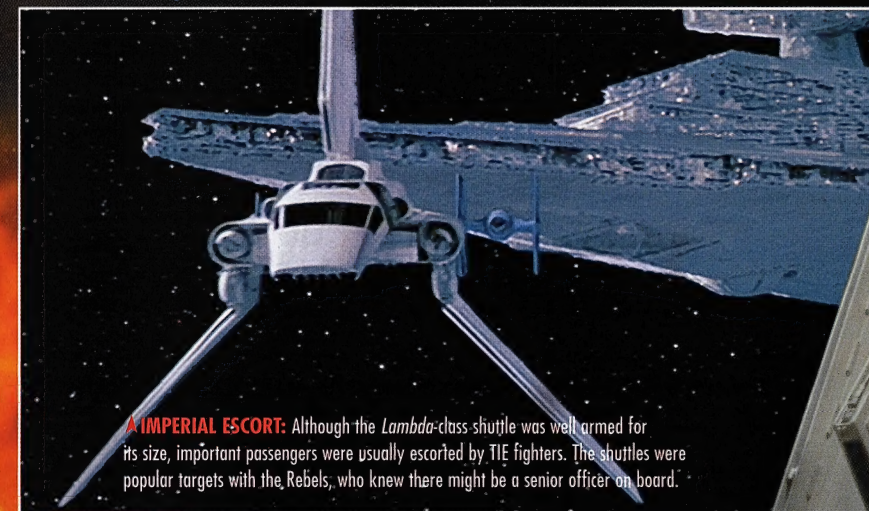
Capable of sublight speeds up to 50 MGLT, the shuttle could reach a velocity of 850 kilometres per hour within

a planetary atmosphere.

Unlike most Imperial shuttlecraft, the *Lambda*-class was fitted with a Class 1 SFS hyperdrive unit that allowed it to make interstellar jumps unaided.

Armament for the standard *Lambda*-class shuttle was three clusters of double blaster cannons, two

▶ IMPERIAL SYMBOL: Residents of the Empire came to recognize the distinctive inverted Y-shape of the Imperial shuttle as a herald of bad news. It often marked the arrival of a senior officer on some mission of renewed oppression.



▶ IMPERIAL ESCORT: Although the *Lambda*-class shuttle was well armed for its size, important passengers were usually escorted by TIE fighters. The shuttles were popular targets with the Rebels, who knew there might be a senior officer on board.

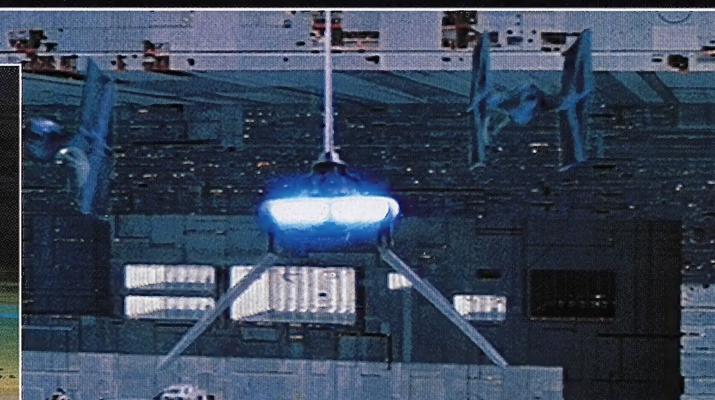
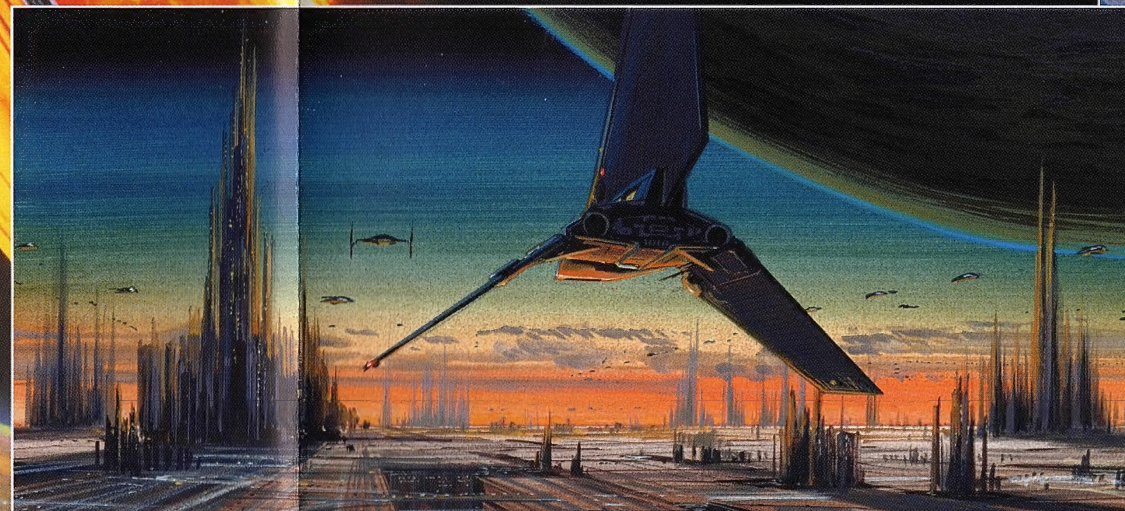
pairs mounted in the forward arc and a single pair mounted facing aft. In addition to these, two more pairs of Taim & Bak KX5 laser cannons were fitted on the leading edge of the ship's wing roots. Some versions of the shuttle mounted ion cannons in alternate configurations. With a lightly armoured hull covered by two deflector shield generators, the *Lambda*-class was fast, relatively agile and capable of weathering an attack by enemy fighters. Because of its internal weapons load-out and interstellar flight capability, these shuttles often travelled without a TIE fighter escort. As a result, Rebel observers often found it difficult to determine if the ships were carrying common cargo or important Imperial dignitaries.

CABIN CREW

The *Lambda*-class shuttle could be flown by a single pilot. However, during Imperial service the ships had a standard complement of four – a command pilot, co-pilot, navigator and gunnery officer. For some missions, a further two officers were added – one to operate the secure communications array and a second to monitor power allocation and engineering functions. Pilots for

▶ A SOFT LANDING: The *Lambda*-class shuttle's system of secondary ion thrusters ensured that the craft could achieve graceful landings, maintaining the safety and dignity of the passengers on board. The system also made the shuttle agile in flight.

these shuttles – especially those belonging to important Imperial figures – were often recruited from TIE fighter squadrons instead of the usual crews of auxiliary craft, as their combat training and flight skills were well suited for flying the graceful yet deadly *Lambda*-class shuttles.



▶ A POWER DRIVE: With a large proportion of the aft area given over to the main drive unit, the shuttle could achieve high-speed atmospheric flight as well as unaided hyperspace travel. Speed was considered an essential defensive mechanism to protect important passengers.